

ATTACHMENT K

March 7, 2011

Dear Sir or Madam:

I would like to share some information with you about the proposed budget for Nevada State Prison (NSP). I have been employed with the Department of Corrections (Department of Prisons) since 1996, and I have spent my whole career at Nevada State Prison. I have worked most all of the security positions within the institution. So I can say that I have a very good working knowledge of how the institution functions and what is needed for security. I have copies of the most recent State Public Works Board Facility Condition Analysis for Nevada State Prison. This is the document that the Director of Corrections is using for his proposed budget which includes the closure of Nevada State Prison. We all have been asking for the correct numbers from the Director of Corrections for at least the past four years and after careful review of this document, I believe we can see where the proposed 30 million dollars in "Priority 1 repairs" will be spent. I have found many inconsistencies and questionable items in this review. I am asking that you review this document as well and I believe you will also see the proposed wasteful spending of the taxpayer's monies.

In this letter I will highlight some of these issues and explain the reasons why these numbers are questionable. The first item I am questioning is the demolition of structures that do not have a bearing on the infrastructure or the safety and security of the institution. These buildings are on the outside of the institution and are not accessed by the public, staff, or inmates. The buildings and demolition costs are as follows: The old Dog Kennel (\$12,000), the old water storage tank (\$23,750), the old Butcher shop (\$3,000), the old Maintenance Warehouse (\$15,000). The old warden's house is also included in this report (\$25,000) for the discontinued use and preservation. The old Warden's house has not been used in over 15 years and it is currently being renovated by Nevada State Prison inmates. There is a savings of \$78,750 by not wasting tax payer's money on these non essential items.

I am also questioning the proposed "American with Disabilities Act program" upgrades that are deemed as Priority 1 items. First and foremost, Nevada State Prison is not an "ADA type" institution. What I mean by this is NSP is not a "flat" yard, and due to the steep terrain it would not be safe for anyone with a wheelchair to maneuver around the facility. If there are inmates that have special needs such as a wheel chair, walker or any other type medical assistance device, they ARE NOT classified to Nevada State Prison. The inmates would be classified and sent to an "ADA type" institution such as Northern Nevada Correctional Center. I do agree with certain ADA upgrades that would assist the public visitors, but I do question the costs of these upgrades. There is a \$60,000 Priority 1 request to retrofit a bathroom (Adding grab bars, paper dispensers and lowering a mirror 9") in the courthouse. There is also an \$80,000 Priority 1 request to retrofit the public restroom in unit 12 and create two (2) ADA compliant showers for the lockdown inmates. As I explained in a previous paragraph, this is not an "ADA type" institution and we do not receive special needs inmates. So it would not be necessary to

build these ADA showers. For the proposed cost of "ADA" upgrading two bathrooms (\$140,000), you could build a complete 1500 square foot house at the current market value of \$93/sqft.

There is another major question I have about this proposed budget. Nevada State Prison was granted federal monies (Homeland Security Grant) for the upgrade and retrofit of all the video surveillance/ security systems within the institution. As of March 1st 2011, Nevada State Prison HAS NOT had any new video surveillance equipment installed or retrofitted with these monies. After reviewing this Public works document, I have found that there is three million dollars (\$3,000,000) in Priority 1 monies being requested to upgrade and retrofit Nevada State Prison's video surveillance/ security system. Where did the federal grant money go? If federal grant money is still available, why is the state public works board requesting \$3,000,000 to fund a project that the federal government has already paid for? In either case I do agree with some of the upgraded video surveillance items, but at this time (due to the economic crisis the state is in) it is unnecessary to spend state money for them. Nevada State Prison has survived for over 80 years without these upgrades, so it can make it a few more years without them.

I have found other incidences in this report where there is exorbitant wasteful spending of tax payer's monies. For example: There is a Priority 1 request for the Department of Motor Vehicles building (The tag plant) for \$4,500 to replace Wood stairs on the side of the building that are not being used. This building is on NSP's property within the institution. I spoke with the tag plant employees as well as NSP maintenance staff and the common consensus is the cost of replacing these stairs would be no more than \$500, and this includes metal hand rails. The NSP maintenance department said they could build the stairs if they were needed, but the DMV employees said that the door is never used and should be permanently sealed.

I am also questioning the Priority 1 request to demolish Guard towers 3, 4, and 5 and replace them for \$575,000 each. The grand total to unnecessarily replace the towers right now is \$1,725,000. The towers are still functional and do what they were designed to do. Would it be nice to have new towers? Sure it would, but yet again it is not the time to spend money on something that is not needed right now.

There is another concern I have found in this analysis. State Public Works Board is requesting money for quite a few items that have been completed. For example: The seismic gas shut off valves and seismic retrofit for the maintenance shop, courthouse, cottage #3, cottage #1, have all been completed. These items total up to \$84,250. Why is public works requesting these monies for projects that have been completed?

I also question the fire system upgrade and repair costs in the Public Works analysis. I asked the NSP maintenance department if they had any information on the repair or retrofit the institution with a new fire alarm system. I received a set of documents that explained in great detail the locations of the components and the costs to upgrade the system. I was also told that one of the maintenance staff was told to stop upgrading the fire alarm system several years ago because Public Works had said that

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NSP was slated first (1st) in the state for the Priority 1 fire system upgrade. Then the NSP maintenance staff was told that NSP was closing, and to repair only the most necessary items (this did not include the fire alarm system). I totaled up the State Public Works Priority 1 requests for the Nevada State Prison fire alarm system and I was stunned at the requested \$3,886,092 total. The total that was on the Nevada State Prison maintenance document was \$350,000 and this was from the manufacturer of the alarm system (Simplex). My questions are; why is there a \$3,536,092 difference between State Public Works and the manufacturer and installer of the fire alarm system? Where would the unused or left over money go after the proposed repair is complete?

If you total up these few Priority 1 requests, it amounts to \$8,568,592 in wasted taxpayer money. After carefully reviewing the whole document, I believe there could be a total savings of \$26,913,496 or more. This would mean that there is only approximately \$3,086,504 in Priority 1 repairs required.

After reviewing this Facility Condition Analysis document and seeing the wasteful spending, I then looked into the 2011 Governor recommended capitol improvement list for Corrections. I went through this document and totaled up the projects requested for each institution and found some very interesting information. It appears that State Public Works is requesting \$4,839,084 for Nevada State Prison capitol improvements. This is a far cry from the \$30,000,000 that the Director of Corrections and State Public Works Board are requesting as Priority 1 improvements for Nevada State Prison. Here are a few more interesting numbers: There is \$19,361,493 being requested for Southern Desert Correctional Center (built in 1980). There is \$16,156,921 being requested for Northern Nevada Correctional Center (built in 1962). There is \$18,952,113 being requested for Lovelock Correctional Center (built in 1992). What I don't understand is these are ALL newer facilities and they are requesting over 16 million dollars for repairs and upgrades. Nevada State Prison is at least 40 years older than the next oldest facility and even at its worst, it would only require 10 million in upgrades and repairs.

To summarize: I believe the numbers from the facility analysis that the Director of Corrections is basing his proposed NSP closure on is grossly overinflated and incorrect. There are many items in this analysis that can be done in house by NSP's maintenance staff for a fraction of the proposed prices, and there are items in this analysis that have been completed or are not needed at this time. There are many other issues that could be pointed out, but I believe I have covered enough information to question the validity of the numbers for the proposed Corrections budget. I ask you to please look into this further before you make a decision on the closure of Nevada State Prison. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

John Jermyn
Correctional Officer